

# FLYING

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# WHEEL

Summer 2020



# OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

## Colonel's Letter



The year 2020 will be remembered historically as one which saw many changes. I wrote earlier in the year about how we would better ourselves throughout 2020, compounding on the many achievements of the year previous. These words take on an entirely different meaning today than they did a few short months ago. From our enhanced efforts in community engagement, to the adjustments in teleworking and the transformation of our training, we have fortified our Division through critical change.

Our operations have been modified considerably from those of years past due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines. Early in the pandemic, traditional forms of communication were adapted for the seemingly ever-changing landscape we found ourselves in. The decision was made to keep our employees updated on a regular basis through the use of short informative videos.

Of these changes, many were seen at our own academy for the health and wellness of everyone present. Instruction of our cadets and basic officers was altered, as we abided by health guidelines and constraints to keep them safe by means of a virtual training regimen. The use of Zoom and other interactive methods provided our recruits with the safest possible alternatives during COVID-19.

Our annual Patrol Memorial Ceremony saw a virtual variation so loved ones could view the ceremony, despite not being able to be there in person. We find this to be the most fitting, because, for the safety of all, a change was required. This ceremony is close to my heart, and I could not allow this special day to pass without a tribute honoring and remembering loved ones who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of service.

Some of our other essential needs also experienced a change with the pandemic regulations, especially in the ways we typically keep physically healthy. Exercising for example, was restricted in gyms due to pandemic guidelines. The Patrol Academy was quick to respond, producing a series dubbed "Division Fit" to help everyone find new ways to work out and keep their health in check.

Going forward, we must remember back to when the initial trials of 2020 presented themselves, and how our adaptability as an agency made an otherwise insurmountable task a manageable challenge. One aspect throughout all of this which remains consistent is our commitment to the citizens of Ohio. You showed the people of our great state that we can accomplish anything set in front of us, and for that I couldn't be more proud.

For the remainder of the year, we must continue to be committed to the core mission of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The diversification we have shown in our operations has not gone unnoticed, but our true strength will always remain in traffic enforcement. Many motorists have become complacent with sparsely populated highways, leading to dangerously high speeds. Distractions continue to take eyes off the road, and impaired drivers make the dangerous decision to get behind the wheel. Innocent lives are constantly jeopardized by these selfish motivations, and we must be the protectors of our highways. Your impact today will continue to speak volumes tomorrow, and for many years to come.

I would personally like to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to excellence and the greater good you have instilled throughout this year thus far. As we make strides towards 2021, remember what the experiences through this time have taught us. Every interaction we make is the opportunity to serve - we must never discard it. I have said it before, but I will say it again, I am truly humbled to serve as your superintendent.

Colonel Richard S. Fambro  
Superintendent



### 3. Troopers Assist Communities in Times of Need

Troopers from around the state participate in community involvement.

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# Troopers Assist Communities in Times of Need

When the state's Emergency Operations Center becomes active, the Patrol's Incident Command System is initiated. Missions in applicable areas were modified from regular operations to assisting the people of Ohio in times of need. During the state's response to COVID-19, and as people stayed home, the Patrol began assisting the public in various ways. Many of these efforts included helping local school districts and food banks distribute food.





Lieutenant C. Shawn Kelley, commander of the Portsmouth Post, knew something needed done in his community. His ongoing commitment with the Portsmouth River Days, the Counseling Center, area schools, and religious and civic leaders helped him spearhead a community-wide food drive.

Each year, Portsmouth holds River Days, Ohio’s longest continuous running festival. Events typically consist of outdoor activities, live musical performances, and events on the Ohio River. One female high school senior from each of the area’s 12 schools is chosen to compete in the River Days Pageant. During the several-month competition, the contestants choose a platform on which to educate their fellow students and community. Lieutenant Kelley has worked with a couple of the contestants in years past, coaching them on safety belt usage.

This year, Lieutenant Kelley recommended the contestants join together to help provide food for those in need in their area during the COVID-19 pandemic with “Feed Your Neighbor Friday.” Each school representative then teamed up with local family-owned grocery stores in their community. Every Friday, one candidate stands outside their local store and collects canned food donations. These efforts are promoted through news and social media to garner as much support from the community as possible.

Any money donated toward the effort is immediately spent inside that store by purchasing additional items for the food drive. Troopers from the Portsmouth Post assisted with the food drive at these locations. In one week alone, 1,088 items were donated to the campaign.

From there, the food is transported to the Counseling Center, where residents are busy separating and boxing up items. The Counseling Center reached out to Lieutenant Kelley early in the pandemic asking if troopers could assist. The center, which provides support for substance abuse, mental health, physical health, and recovery housing has played an important part in “Feed Your Neighbor Friday.”

At the center, a small portion of the food goes to pantries, while the majority is distributed to area clergy and the NAACP. Lieutenant Kelley said many of these leaders have contacted him and explained how some of their members are suffering without food. Since those leaders know who would best benefit from the donations, they are given the ability to ensure donated goods are placed into the homes of those who need it most in the community.

“This is happening right here,” Lieutenant Kelley said. “This community is as tight as it has ever been.”

In addition to “Feed Your Neighbor Friday,” residents and former residents have reached out to him wanting to donate money to children who are no longer getting meals at schools. Lieutenant Kelley has put those individuals in touch with the local school systems so they can provide their generous contributions. Those donations purchased enough food to provide approximately six weeks of meals for the students.



Lieutenant Melanie R. Appleman, Cambridge Post Commander, also asked her troopers to come up with ways to support their community. What happened next was better than Lieutenant Appleman could have ever hoped.

Trooper Brian R. Neff and his wife were discussing how different life had become, and how normally busy roads were now empty. They were discussing their families and imagining what it would be like for those in nursing homes. Trooper Neff decided he would call a few of the nursing homes in the Cambridge area to see if they would be okay with some of the troopers stopping by and waving at the residents. The nursing homes he called were excitedly on board and wanted to start immediately.

Trooper Neff made signs like, "Stopping by to say hi!" for troopers to hold up to windows for the residents to see. At some of the nursing homes, workers would go around with the troopers to tell them about the residents, often pointing out veterans. Some of the nursing homes have now added a symbol in the windows of those who served. In one case, troopers befriended a 102-year-old veteran.

Trooper Neff says the response has been so positive that many of the nursing homes have offered for them to come back when the weather gets nice, and they can meet the residents outside. Others have offered the opportunity to return and have lunch with the residents once the pandemic is over.

"People appreciate what we are doing," Trooper Neff said. "It takes five minutes. It's nice for them and it does a lot for us." He added that while they are greeting the residents, they are also letting the nursing home employees know they are appreciated as well.



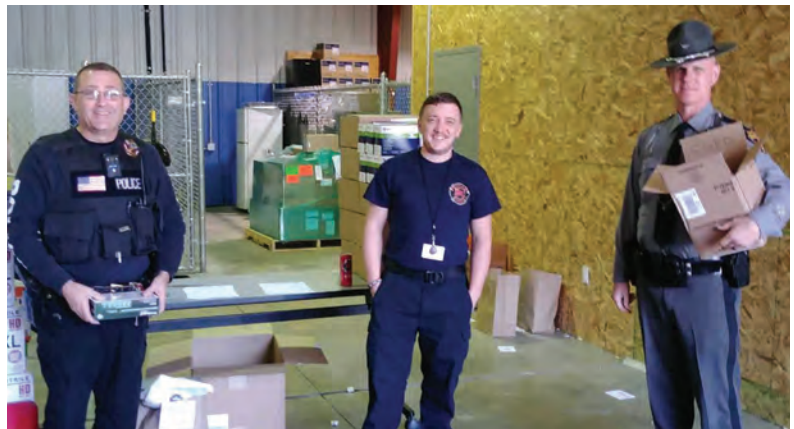


Throughout the state, troopers worked alongside law enforcement, fire and EMT personnel to give back to their communities to show that we are all in this together. As a thank you, each week Patrol personnel and Ohio Department of Public Safety Electronic Design Coordinator Rebecca M. Meadows coordinated #inthistgether photos with local first responders. The photos were posted on social media showing the partnerships and commitment to our communities.

On April 15, the governor announced a statewide collaboration with the Patrol, which would expand its partnership with Columbus-based Batelle. Sanitizing N-95 masks for first responders, including law enforcement agencies and EMS providers, became a primary focus.

Agencies sealed their used masks and dropped them off to their local Patrol posts. Each Friday, troopers took the masks gathered to Batelle to be sanitized. Once sanitized, the masks were returned to Patrol posts where the agencies could pick them up.

In addition to this, troopers provided security around the perimeter of the state prisons and enforce compliance at rest areas where food trucks are set up to sell food to truck drivers.









# Change of Workspace: Teleworking

Beginning March 16, Governor Mike DeWine implemented teleworking protocols to safeguard employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because his directive included non-sworn personnel, many civilian staff were issued equipment and asked to work from home.

Administrative Professional 1 Heidi J. Ryan, Bowling Green Post, and Program Administrator 3 Gretchen Lopez-Martinez, Finance and Logistics, were two of 336 Patrol employees statewide who were directed to telework.

While Ryan understands the importance of staying home and staying safe, she believes there is something to be said for being at the office.

“The worst part is not seeing my co-workers,” Ryan said. “We have created a family and it’s just sad not to be able to see them every day.”

Public Information Specialist Bradley C. Shaw is fortunate he is able to complete his work at home and still help out those who are in the field.

“I enjoy working from home, but I’m ready to get back and have the opportunity to talk to everyone I haven’t seen in awhile,” Shaw said.

For Lopez-Martinez, teleworking started the day after she began a new role with the Patrol. On March 15, she was promoted to Program Administrator for Ohio’s Traffic Records Coordinating Committee. On March 16, she began working from home.





“Starting a new job from home, when state services had to quickly adopt and adapt to teleworking, was a challenge I was not expecting,” Lopez-Martinez said.

She created an atmosphere similar to her office from her dining room table, complete with sticky notes on the wall and boxes of files on the chairs. It is difficult for Lopez-Martinez to visualize how her job at home differs from being at work in her office with the change. She acknowledges she is using Skype more than she ever has at work, which is a welcomed change.

“Turning on the Skype camera brings a smile to my face as I look at familiar faces working from home,” she said, and added that she felt relieved “that we are all in this together.”

“It has been challenging to start a new job alone, from home,” Lopez-Martinez said. “The best part of working from home is being employed in a time like this, and the comfort of my dog to get me through the day.”



## Manufacturing Face Coverings at Home

Patrol tailors Belva (Carma) King and Mirjana A. Riesteska reported once a week to the Alum Creek facility location to conduct fittings by appointment and make alterations. During this time, the tailors pick up materials and other supplies needed to make face coverings for all Patrol personnel. Patrol Training Academy Custodial Worker Milena Nikolovsk, an accomplished tailor, was also requested to assist.

With the Center for Disease Control's recommendation of face coverings, Nikolovsk and other tailors began making face coverings in mid-April, with the project continuing into the summer. Approximately 2,749 face coverings were made. Each are made from a poly-cotton blend of gray material, and were distributed through equipment supply pick up. “I am very proud of all three of them, they adapted and improvised and were able to provide personnel with a critical safety item,” said Administrative Officer 1 Tonja Smith.





# Honoring our Fallen Amid COVID-19

Each May, members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol gather to remember those who were killed in the line of duty. With mass gatherings of 10 or more people prohibited due to COVID-19, the way the Patrol honored the fallen could not be done in person this year. It was important to Colonel Richard S. Fambro, Patrol superintendent, that the fallen members and their families were honored properly.

On May 8 at 1 p.m., the previously scheduled day and time the Patrol would have held the ceremony, a moment of silence took place at the Patrol Training Academy in its place. As Colonel Fambro stood in Leadership Hall overlooking the memorial, Trooper John E. Moore solemnly stood guard and saluted the black granite wall where names of the Patrol's heroes are forever engraved. Trooper Moore's somber salute was in honor of his grandfather, Sergeant Edward G. Moore, who was killed in the line of duty in July 1976. Outside, troopers encircled the academy perimeter in 35 Patrol vehicles. Mourning bands were displayed on two cruisers parked in front of the academy.

A Patrol helicopter from the Aviation Unit conducted a flyover in a symbolic missing man formation. The lone helicopter signified the unprecedented times, while also paying homage to the fallen heroes of the Patrol.





Knowing the Patrol family could not physically gather, a video was created with Colonel Fambro narrating. It featured a statement describing the names etched in black granite standing behind the Eternal Flame dedicated to Reverend Richard and Linda Ellsworth. Colonel Fambro then detailed how the memorial ceremony would take place under traditional circumstances, starting with the honor guard presenting the colors and the singing of the National Anthem. He continued on with how the names would be read aloud, while roses are simultaneously placed on the sacred wall in their honor. The ceremony ends with Reverend Ellsworth's closing prayer.

Colonel Fambro then read each name one by one. As the names were read, their photo appeared with the sound of one bell toll. This year 47 fallen heroes were honored, including a new hero - Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Kimra J. Skelton. MCEI Skelton was killed while on patrol in November 2019 in Miami County.

The 2020 Virtual Patrol Memorial Ceremony video was distributed to the family members of the fallen, all Patrol personnel and via social media. With this video, Colonel Fambro wanted the family members of the fallen to know their sacrifice will not be forgotten, and they will always be honored.

On May 15, National Peace Officers Memorial Day, a highlight video of the Patrol's Moment of Silence on May 8 was released to commemorate the day. The video also explained how in 1962 President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating the day to peace officers, and the week of May 15 as Police Week. The video concluded with a message honoring the brothers and sisters across the nation who gave everything, and the survivors who have been left behind.



*The 2020 Patrol Memorial Video is available for view on the Patrol's official Facebook Page.*





# Resiliency through Virtual Learning

On March 30, the Patrol Training Academy doors were closed for training for the first time ever in Patrol history due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Within a week, academy staff prepped the 42 cadets and 62 basic class members for their participation in distance learning, another first for the Patrol Academy.

Learning from home was a challenge for both the cadet class as well as the basic class, one that academy staff took seriously. The academy staff had to work within the guidelines of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) curriculum to ensure they were providing certified information to the members of the two classes. A list of classes, which could be completed through Zoom, were approved through OPOTA, making the transition to distance learning possible.

The current basic class, the largest to ever go through the academy, were nearly done with the classroom portion of their training when the public health crisis began. The next step for their class was supposed to be practical training, a difficult task when distance learning.

By day three of distance learning, Lieutenant Eric S. Damron, regional training unit and basic school commander, said the approved classroom instruction required by OPOTA had been successfully taught. Therefore, the academy staff filled the space with additional classroom instruction normally not taught in a basic class curriculum, more than the OPOTA required amount of training for the state's requirements. Monday through Friday, basics logged into Zoom with one instructor. Academy staff also invited experts to provide classes on various policing topics, including psyche of survival, active shooter, drug recognition, constitutional law and street survival.

"One of the most challenging aspects of distance learning was the lack of personal interaction with the class", Lieutenant Damron said. "With distance learning, the classroom setting was changed dramatically for everyone's safety. We had to adapt to the changed dynamic between instructor and trainee, which our staff was able to do exceptionally well."

In order for the cadets and basics to stay in shape, they were given workouts and notebooks to log what they did each day.

Major Chuck A. Jones, Academy Commandant, hosted conference calls with chiefs of police and sheriffs who were grateful the Patrol academy kept moving forward with training. The training kept the basics employed, while also affording them the opportunity to gain more knowledge, even during the shutdown.

While the feedback was positive, both the cadet and basic classes were happy to return to the traditional training environment. On May 18, the academy reopened, but with strict social distancing requirements in place. As the cadets and basics came back to the academy, things had to be different.

Lieutenant Damron explained that the way classes were scheduled changed in order to be in compliance with health orders. This made academy staff have to be resourceful, because OPOTA mandates specific numbers of qualified instructors depending on the class.

"We have overcome some extreme challenges both in scheduling and instruction," Lieutenant Damron said of the academy staff. "They have risen to the challenge, and executed it with professionalism and expertise." He added that academy staff have made up many of the practical hours, with continual changes throughout the process.

The basic class was slated to be completed with their training on June 16, but with delays due to COVID-19 they will have a new projected graduation date of July 24.





# Patrol Training Academy Implements Division Fit Program

Once or twice a week during the COVID-19 pandemic, Patrol employees and their families were sent a video link. The link had Trooper Randy T. Petit, a high intensity instructor from the Patrol Training Academy, describing the importance of staying fit. More specifically, it was how to stay "Division Fit." Behind the camera was Sergeant Archie L. Spradlin, also from the Patrol Training Academy, filming Trooper Petit as he showed viewers new ways to stay healthy.

The idea for the videos actually began before COVID-19 and was geared toward preparing troopers for the GXT. As the pandemic began to change how the Patrol operates, a request was made for at-home workouts. The two pitched the idea, it was approved and they got to work filming.

"Trooper Petit started out a little less dynamic," Sergeant Spradlin said. "I told him that he needed to get you off the couch and get you motivated." That extra motivation Trooper Petit portrayed worked.

"We didn't expect the positive responses and are taken aback by how well it was received," Trooper Petit said.

He used his imagination, education and input from strength coaches from around the country to come up with many of the exercises. He explained how to properly do wall squats, run stairs and car pushes. Since fitness gyms were closed, he offered different approaches as to what can be used for exercises. Instead of weights, items such as water jugs, liquid detergents, suit cases, backpacks and sacks of potatoes could be used. Other videos were geared toward nutrition, featuring Patrol Dietitian Whitney Money.

Every video featured a different member of the Patrol. The goal was to make sure everyone was represented. Sergeant Spradlin and Trooper Petit asked to have some featured guests to appear in the videos, but they especially liked those individuals who reached out to them due to their enthusiasm.

"In our line of work, we never know when we will be asked or forced to react to a physical confrontation," Trooper Petit said. "A suspect or violator does not care how old you are, what your gender is or what size you are. We must always be ready."

In addition to the physicality, both know that the job as a public servant carries stress in many ways, manifesting physically, mentally and emotionally. Being physically fit combats that stress in all of those ways. As we progress in age, it becomes increasingly important for us to focus on our health and fitness.

Patrol personnel are encouraged to share this video series with their family members. By having families work out together, it promotes good health and spending time together.

Trooper Petit and Sergeant Spradlin have heard from troopers, police officers, OIU agents, as well as other members of the Division regarding the videos. They like answering everyone's questions, and have even received videos and pictures of Division members working out with their families.

"To know that a video has aided their health and helped them spend more time with their family is about as good as it gets," Trooper Petit said. "These videos are for them."



Lieutenant Matthew R. Schmenk and his sons (L-R) Tyson, Tate and Logan, holding up the Division Fit exercise plan after participating in the program at home.

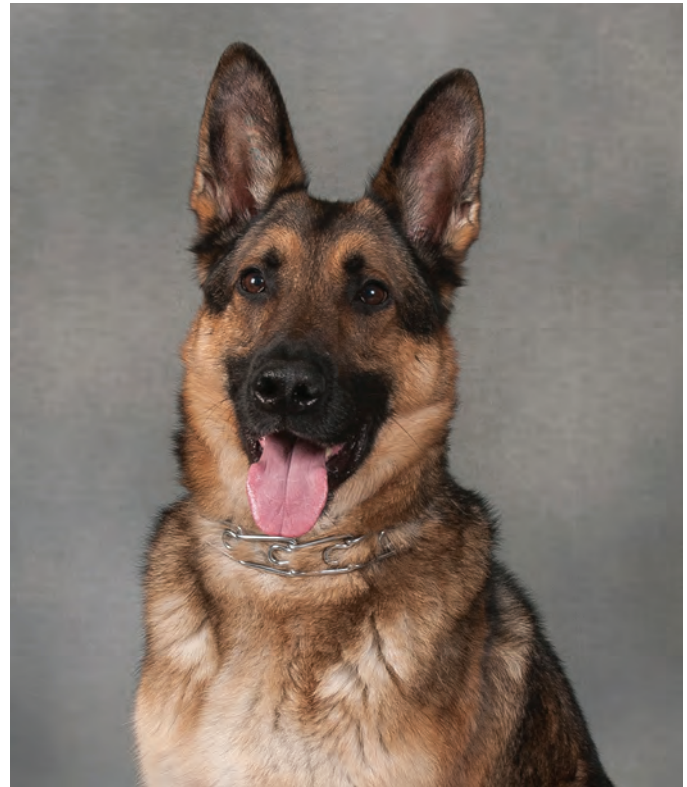


# Patrol Mourns Loss of K9 Ryo

The Patrol mourned the death of K9 Ryo, one of our drug detecting canines, who passed away on May 18 due to natural causes. During his eight-year career with the Patrol he seized 675 pounds of marijuana, 17 pounds of methamphetamine, 20 pounds of heroin, 12 pounds of Fentanyl and 14 pounds of cocaine. K9 Ryo served the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the citizens of Ohio well.



K9 Ryo and his handler Trooper Joseph M. Weeks.



# Light Ohio Blue

From May 8-15, the Ohio State Highway Patrol took part in Light Ohio Blue. Light Ohio Blue honors and pays respects to the law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, as well as those sworn currently serving and civilian staff.

During the week, Light Ohio Blue encouraged all community members, businesses and law enforcement agencies to light their exteriors blue. Every Patrol post participated, with photos showing personnel and cruisers with blue lights lighting up the background displayed on social media.

On May 8, Patrol personnel took part in a caravan which began at the Columbus Division of Police Academy and ended at Genoa Park. Law enforcement from around Central Ohio, as well as surviving family members, took part in the caravan. This year, the caravan drove by hospitals honoring front line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic to be in alignment with the Center for Disease Control guidelines.





# Auxiliary Graduation



Congratulations to the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary officers who graduated on March 1. The OSHP Auxiliary is an all-volunteer force which provides assistance to troopers in the course of their duties.

# Academy Blood Drive



The Patrol Training Academy hosted a blood drive on April 22 for all employees, their family members and officers of partnering law enforcement agencies around the state. The blood drive was hosted to help the American Red Cross ensure a stable supply throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Ohio Statehouse



Statehouse personnel got a chance to stop and talk to competitors who competed in the Arnold Classic this year for Integrity Athletics. Pictured are, from left, (back) Lieutenant Marcus A. Pirrone, Coach Alli Ricker, (middle) Breck Grubbs, Ava Schmutz (daughter of Major Robin and Sergeant Bo Schmutz), Trooper Benjamin R. Addy and K9 Bodie, (front) Hannah Goshima.



# Findlay District



On March 24, while exercising social distancing guidelines, troopers from the Defiance Post gathered with the Defiance County first responder community in the post parking lot for a blessing of the badges. They listened as Reverend Dave Brobston spoke words of encouragement during challenging times, showing solidarity to the community in which they serve.

# Bucyrus District



On April 10, State Representative Mark Romanchuk attended a Blessing of the Badges by Patrol Chaplain Dan Vickey and Dr. Rich Rader. Bucyrus District troopers and Richland County police, fire, and EMS agencies received a blessing and were thanked for their service.

# Cleveland District



On April 16, troopers from the Cleveland Post, licensing and commercial standards, and investigative services, along with dispatchers from the Cleveland Dispatch Center and Patrol Auxiliary officers, worked alongside the Ohio Investigative Unit, Cleveland Division of Police and the Ohio National Guard to assist the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to serve approximately 3,000 families.

# Warren District



Dispatcher Matthew Smith of the Warren Dispatch Center was deployed on April 5 to New York City as a Hospital Corpsman with the United States Navy Reserves. The Warren Dispatch Center personnel showed their support for Dispatcher Smith by wearing shirts in his honor during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.



# Piqua District



The Marysville Post received emergency aide in the form of vehicle sanitizer and an ozone generator. The post would like to express their appreciation to all those who donated to the Union County COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.

Sergeant Thomas J. Gerber, Marysville Post, was invited to be a guest on a weekly Zoom meeting for his daughter's kindergarten class at Saint Mary's School in Delaware. He talked to the students about wearing seatbelts, booster seats, bicycle safety, cyber safety and how to contact 911 from their parents' cell phones.



On March 26, troopers Joseph M. Weeks and Kyle E. Pohlabel, Piqua District Criminal Patrol, assisted Northmont High School in distributing food to students who are currently not in school. Troopers Weeks and Pohlabel helped with traffic control and greeted those who attended.

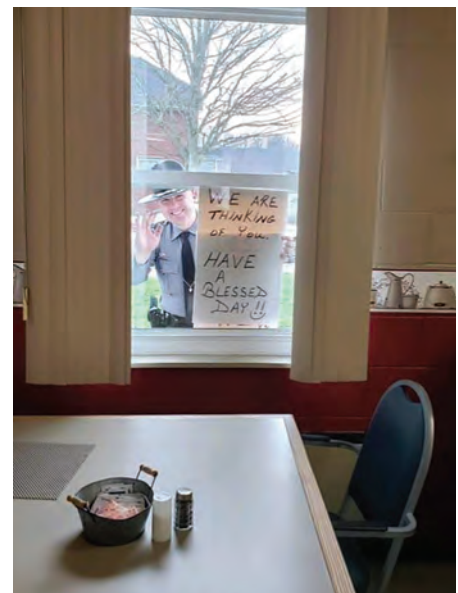
# Columbus District



In February, Trooper Matthew A. Perez was instrumental in rescuing a kidnapped woman. The Columbus Division of Police received a 911 call from a woman who reported her daughter's ex-boyfriend had just fired shots into her home and kidnapped her daughter at gunpoint. As the Columbus Division of Police investigated, information was obtained indicating the suspect and victim were in Madison County. All Madison County law enforcement officers were provided with information to assist in locating the suspect's vehicle. Trooper Perez located the suspect vehicle with the victim and her ex-boyfriend inside. Due to the imminent risk posed by the suspect, Trooper Perez was unable to wait for back-up and immediately took the suspect into custody. Trooper Perez found a loaded handgun near the driver's seat of the vehicle and learned the victim had been injured. He secured the handgun and immediately called for medical assistance. For his life-saving actions, Trooper Perez was presented with the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Certificate of Recognition on March 27.

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# Cambridge District



On March 28, troopers from the Cambridge Post coordinated visits to nursing facilities throughout Guernsey and Noble counties to check in on the residents.

# Jackson District



On March 30, Athens and Portsmouth post troopers assisted their local school districts by preparing food which was distributed to families in the area.

# Wilmington District



On April 3, Wilmington District Captain Paul E. Hermes presented a certificate of recognition to Batavia Post employees Sergeant Charles A. Jordan, Trooper Richard G. Gable and Batavia Dispatch Center Dispatcher Rebel L. Martin for their quick actions during an incident on January 26. Together, they prevented further tragedy when a driver experiencing a medical emergency was reported as a reckless operator. Dispatcher Martin quickly dispatched Trooper Gable who then requested additional assistance. Sergeant Jordan responded

and placed his patrol car in the median, preventing the vehicle from crossing into oncoming traffic. The reckless driver struck Sergeant Jordan's patrol car, resulting in extensive damage to both vehicles. The action prevented a head-on collision with oncoming traffic. The units quickly realized this was a medical emergency and requested medical personnel for the driver. Unknowingly, there was also a 13-year-old child in the vehicle. The quick actions of these Batavia Post employees prevented serious injuries or death to the driver, her son and other unsuspecting traffic.



# Patrol Hosts K9 Coloring Contest

When Governor Mike DeWine initially announced an extended three-week spring break for Ohio's school children in response to COVID-19, the Patrol's Public Affairs Unit came up with the idea to host a K9 coloring contest.

Students were asked to go through an album on Facebook, choose their favorite Patrol K9 and then draw him/her. Parents were asked to submit their child's work to Public Affairs by April 11.

On National Pet Day, Centerburg Elementary student Morgan Gaboric, 11, found out she was the winner of the contest through a special social media post. Morgan drew K9 Alex.

Colonel Richard S. Fambro, Sergeant Scott Bayless and K9 Alex sent Morgan a congratulatory video message. She also appeared on Columbus' CBS affiliate's morning show.

## Top Grade Winners:

Kindergarten – Ophelia Rose, 6, Lynchburg-Clay Elementary School, drew K9 Bono

First Grade – Logan Vail, 7, Roosevelt Elementary School, drew K9 Beck

Second Grade – Taylor McFadden, 8, Andrews Osborne Academy, drew K9 Wolf

Third Grade – Alana Vargas, 8, R.C. Waters Elementary School, drew K9 Ronny

Fourth Grade – Breanna Rosselett, 10, Lynchburg-Clay Elementary School, drew K9 Drago

Fifth Grade – Layla Angelo, 11, Etna Elementary School, drew K9 Bo

Sixth Grade – Sophia Sutton, 11, Badger Middle School, drew K9 Remy

Seventh Grade – Conner Dennis, 12, Berne Union Local Schools, drew K9 Noro

Eighth Grade – Alliyah Rogers, 14, Allen East Middle School, drew K9 Katie

Ninth Grade – Caleigh Henline, 14, Hardin Houston High School, drew K9 Tango

The Patrol was overwhelmed with the amount of creative artwork received. All students and patrol brats who participated received a commendation letter from Colonel Fambro.





# Retirees' Association

**Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association**  
Serving our Active and Retired members since 1975

**This is what 69 years of wedded bliss looks like!** Retired Sgt. Richard and Mary Lou Mortine are celebrating 69 years on July 2nd. Dad retired from the Granville post after serving at Bucyrus, Coshocton, and Gallipolis. He was the bailiff for Licking County Juvenile Court. They have 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren and are excitedly awaiting RTO in September. If any of you would like to hear some very interesting stories about early trooper life, give Dad a call. Mom can share what it's like to be the wife of a trooper during the turbulent 1960's and the college and prison riots that happened during those years. Dad and Mom are blessed to be in good health and are being strong, happy, and healthy during this pandemic. **Karen Hickman**

**With our condolences, we report the passing of Doris Ann McCort, age 90, surviving spouse of retired Lieutenant Richard B. McCort, on Wednesday, July 1, 2020. Richard graduated from the 40th Academy class on November 6, 1953 and retired on November 13, 1974. Richard passed away on February 18, 2016. At this time, no public visitation or services have been scheduled. Condolence information can be found on the Member's page.**

**Meeting Notes from the 2nd Quarter Business meeting that was conducted via the ZOOM network provided by the OSHPRS is now available for viewing on the Members / Coming Events page.**

**Major Chuck Jones has announced the following opportunities for firearms qualifications under the Law Enforcement Firearms Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) at the Orient Correctional Facility Range. Qualifications at the training academy, including ham and bean luncheons, are still being suspended until further notice. Dates, times, and directions can be found by clicking on the PDF document below.**

**Retiree Firearms Qualifications 2020.pdf**

**As we continue to look for ways to improve our website by providing additional resources and information to our retirees, we are providing a link to "Your Guide to a Better Retirement". As an example, this free resource highlights coverage, costs, eligibility and enrollment information, along with answers to some frequently asked questions about Medicare. Please take a look by clicking open the link above and let us know what you think.**

**The Sunbird Reunion, scheduled for August 8th at the Ohio Veterans Home, has been canceled in response to recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for controlling the spread of the coronavirus.**

**As of June 14th, the Annual Luncheon and Business meeting, scheduled for Saturday, November 7th at the Aladdin Shrine Temple in Grove City has not been cancelled. Updates will be provided prior to this date.**

**Coming Retirements - RETIREMENT EVENTS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

The Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees Association (OSHPRA) continues to stay connected with emails and the website OSHPretimee.org during this time when reunions and gatherings have been suspended due to COVID-19 precautions. The OSHPRA held meetings via Zoom and conference calls on June 19 and August 14 to keep members updated.

# State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union

**HOME... IT'S EVERYTHING!**

The State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union is **HERE FOR YOU** and as part of our **COME ON HOME** program our members are eligible for a **New Member Loyalty Discount**.

**YOU CAN NOW EARN DISCOUNTS ON ALL COLLATERAL LOANS:**

**Extra  
.25% Discount**

on your rate with Automatic Loan Payments on any **NEW LOANS**

**+Extra  
.25% Discount**

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**Scott A. Demmitt**

Captain Scott A. Demmitt, Special Response Team, retired on May 6, 2020, after 33 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1987 as a member of the 116th Academy Class. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Athens Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year twice and in 1991 joined the Division's Special Response Team. As a trooper he also served at the Marion Post. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Marysville Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Marion Post, the Bucyrus District Criminal Patrol Unit and the Special Response Team. In 2008, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Office of Field Operations as the Criminal Patrol Coordinator and member of the Special Response Team. While on the Special Response Team, he was promoted to staff lieutenant in 2017 and captain in 2019.



**Mark A. Glennon**

Lieutenant Mark A. Glennon, New Philadelphia Post, retired on April 10, 2020, after 28 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1991 as a member of the 121st Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Hiram Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year four times and District Trooper of the year twice. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award twice. As a trooper, he also served at the New Philadelphia Post. In 2004, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Cambridge Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 2013, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the New Philadelphia Post to serve as post commander. He served in the United States National Guard from 1987 to 1993. He received a certificate in advanced leadership training from the Public Safety Leadership Academy in 2016.



**Christopher P. Barnes**

Sergeant Christopher P. Barnes, Cleveland District Criminal Investigations Unit, retired on March 27, 2020, after 27 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1993 as a member of the 124th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Van Wert Post. In 2008, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Hiram Post, Cleveland Operations and the Warren District Criminal Investigations Unit. In 2015, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Cleveland District Criminal Investigations Unit.



**Thomas M. Bloomberg**

Sergeant Thomas M. Bloomberg, Lebanon Post, retired on March 13, 2020, after 21 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1999 as a member of the 133rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Wilmington Post. In 2002, he was selected as Post and District Trooper of the Year. In 2007, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Lebanon Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Cincinnati and Hamilton posts. Sergeant Bloomberg served in the United States Air Force from 1991 to 1995.



**Thomas R. Hermann**

Sergeant Thomas R. Hermann, Ravenna Post, retired on April 24, 2020, after 26 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1994 as a member of the 126th Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Mansfield Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Ravenna Post. In 2008, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Lisbon Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Canfield Post. Sergeant Hermann served in the United States Marine Corps from 1990 to 1994.





**Michael G. Roth**

Sergeant Michael G. Roth, Mansfield Post, retired on May 21, 2020, after 34 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1990 as a member of the 119th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Mansfield Post. In 1994, he earned the prestigious Superintendent's Citation of Merit Award. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year twice. In 1999, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Bucyrus Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Mansfield and Mt. Gilead posts. Sergeant Roth earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in criminal justice from Northcentral Technical College in 1984.



**Joseph M. Weaver**

Sergeant Joseph M. Weaver, St. Clairsville Post, retired on May 8, 2020, after 23 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1997 as a member of the 129th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Cambridge Post. In 1998, he earned the prestigious Superintendent's Citation of Merit Award. As a trooper, he also served at the St. Clairsville Post and the Patrol's Training Academy. In 2014, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Cambridge Post to serve as an assistant post commander. Sergeant Weaver served in the United States Army from 1987 to 1995. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Ohio University in 1993.



**Michael J. Bess**

Trooper Michael J. Bess, Aviation Unit, retired on May 28, 2020, after 21 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1999 as a member of the 133rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Delaware Post. As a trooper, he also served in Capitol Operations and in the Executive Protection Unit.



**Elizabeth J. Castillo**

Trooper Elizabeth J. Castillo, Fremont Post, entered disability retirement on August 19, 2018, after 18 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in February 2000 as a member of the 135th Academy Class. She earned her commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Van Wert Post. As a trooper, she also served at the Mt. Gilead, Findlay and Fremont posts, Office of Investigations and Findlay District Investigations. Trooper Castillo earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in criminal justice from Central Ohio Technical College in 1996.



**Anthony A. Derenzis**

Trooper Anthony A. Derenzis, Canfield Post, retired on May 29, 2020, after 22 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in October 1997 as a member of the 130th Academy Class. He earned his commission in May of the following year and was assigned to the Ashtabula Post. In 2001, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year.



**Ronald J. Dudley**

Trooper Ronald J. Dudley, Cambridge District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on April 3, 2020, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1990 as a member of the 119th Academy Class. He earned his commission in May of that year and was assigned to the Cambridge Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Zanesville Post.



Retirements in this issue of the Flying Wheel include those employees who retired from March - May 2020.

### **Michelle L. Durliat**

Trooper Michelle L. Durliat, Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on May 15, 2020, after 25 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in May 1995 as a member of the 127th Academy Class. She earned her commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Swanton Post. In 2013, she transferred to the Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit. Trooper Durliat earned an Associate of Arts degree in criminal justice from Owens State Community College in 1993.



### **Rayetta J. Kanters**

Trooper Rayetta J. Kanters, Cleveland District Criminal Investigations Unit, retired on May 29, 2020, after 25 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in May 1995 as a member of the 127th Academy Class. She earned her commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Defiance Post. In 2011, she received the Trooper Recognition Award. As a trooper, she also served at the Canton Post and the former Massillon District Criminal Investigations Unit. Trooper Kanters earned a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Ashland University in 1994.



### **Jason L. Phillips**

Trooper Jason L. Phillips, Mt. Gilead Post, entered disability retirement on April 16, 2020, after one year with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in June 2018 as a member of the 164th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and has been assigned to the Mt. Gilead Post throughout his career.



### **Anna M. Powers**

Trooper Anna M. Powers, Xenia Post, retired on May 8, 2020, after 26 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in February 1994 as a member of the 126th Academy Class. She earned her commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Van Wert Post. In 2000, she transferred to the Xenia Post.



### **Bion Shaw**

Trooper Bion Shaw, Hiram Post, retired on March 27, 2020, after 24 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1995 as a member of the 127th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Canfield Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Warren and Ashtabula posts, and at Capitol Operations.



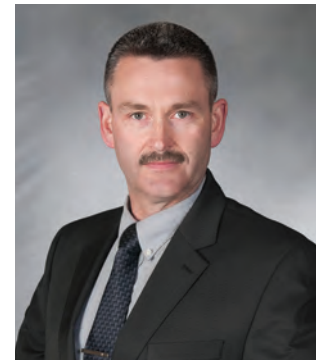
### **Michael S. Shonk**

Trooper Michael S. Shonk, Ravenna Post, retired on May 15, 2020, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1995 as a member of the 127th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Findlay Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Canton Post.



### **George J. Pitre**

Enforcement Agent-in-Charge George J. Pitre, Akron District Office, retired on May 1, 2020, after 30 years of service to the state of Ohio. He began his service with the Malvern Village Police Department as a part-time officer and the Carroll County Sheriff's Office as a deputy. In 1995, he began his work with the Ohio Investigative Unit, known at the time as the Ohio Department of Liquor Control, as an enforcement agent assigned to the Akron District. (continued on pg. 24)





(continued from pg. 23). In 2002, he was awarded the Law Enforcement Excellence in Service Award. In 2006, he was promoted to Assistant Agent-in-Charge of the Cleveland District. In 2014, he was promoted to Agent-in-Charge of the Akron District Office. He graduated from basic peace officer training at Traynor's Police Academy in Massillon in 1989. In March 2008, he completed the Police Executive Leadership College.

**Todd A. Agosta**

Police Officer 2 Todd A. Agosta, Capitol Operations, entered disability retirement on March 18, 2020, after 3 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 2017 as a police officer 2 assigned to the Expo Center.



**Robin S. Case**

Dispatcher Robin S. Case, Wooster Dispatch Center retired on March 5, 2020, after 19 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in April 2001 as a dispatcher assigned to the Medina Dispatch Center. She was selected as Post Dispatcher of the Year six times and District Dispatcher of the Year twice.



**Crystal M. Yaw**

Dispatcher Crystal M. Yaw, Van Wert Dispatch Center, retired on May 14, 2020, after 27 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in March 1993 as a dispatcher assigned to the Defiance Post. As a dispatcher, she also served at the Bowling Green and Sandusky posts.



**Bret R. Hotchkiss**

Motor Vehicle Inspector Bret R. Hotchkiss, Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit retired on April 1, 2020, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1990 as a motor vehicle inspector assigned to the Medina Post. As a motor vehicle inspector, he also served at the Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit.



**James R. Smith**

Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector James R. Smith, Cambridge District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on April 30, 2020, after 26 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in November 1994 as a maintenance repair worker assigned to the Cambridge District Headquarters.



While at Cambridge District Headquarters, he was promoted to a station load limit inspector in 1999 and to a portable load limit inspector later that year. As a portable load limit inspector, he also served at the Cambridge District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2012, he was promoted to a Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector and remained at Cambridge District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2017, he earned the prestigious Superintendent's Citation of Merit Award.

**Shirley P. Fithen**

Administrative Professional 1 Shirley P. Fithen, Steubenville Post, retired on April 30, 2020, after 17 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in February 2003 as an administrative professional 1 and has been assigned to the Steubenville Post throughout her career. She received the Employee Recognition Award twice.



### Diane L. Juhola

Administrative Professional 1 Diane L. Juhola, Office of Training, Recruitment and Diversity, retired on May 22, 2020, after 16 years of state service. She began her career in April 2004 as an office assistant assigned to the Emergency Management Agency. In 2007, she joined the Patrol and transferred to the Office of Training, Recruitment and Diversity and continued working in the same capacity throughout her career.



### Patricia A. Scarberry

Administrative Professional 1 Patricia A. Scarberry, Ironton Post, retired on March 27, 2020, after 32 years of state service. She began her service in March 1987 with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles as a data entry operator. In 1990, she joined the Patrol as a clerk 3 assigned to the Ironton Post. In 1994, she was promoted to an administrative professional 1 and remained at the Ironton Post. Administrative Professional 1 Scarberry earned an Associates of Applied Business degree in accounting from Ohio University in 2004.



### Jill B. Lee

Administrative Professional 1 Jill B. Lee, Cambridge Post, retired on April 17, 2020, after 26 years of public service. She began her career in February 1994 as a deputy clerk at Cambridge Municipal Court. In 2000, she joined the Patrol as an administrative professional 1 assigned to Cambridge District Headquarters, where she earned the District Employee Recognition Award twice. Administrative Professional 1 Lee earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications and a minor in English in 1977 from the University of Mount Union.



### Linda L. Crumley

Data Entry Operator 2 Linda L. Crumley, Traffic Statistics Unit retired on March 26, 2020, after 21 years of state service. She began her career in September 1998 as a data entry operator assigned to the Traffic Statistics Unit. In 2011, she joined the Patrol and continued working in the same capacity throughout her career.



# New Regional Twitter Accounts

In April, the Patrol Public Affairs Unit began the use of regional Twitter accounts to better inform Ohio's residents of public safety messages. The regional accounts are designed to provide localized information for area residents and members of the media. The information may include traffic crashes, road closures, public outreach and more. These accounts are in addition to the Patrol's main Twitter page, which will continue to operate as normal. Regional accounts are operated by public information officers.

- The regional Twitter accounts can be found at:
- [@OSHP\\_CentralOH](#)
- [@OSHP\\_NEOhio](#)
- [@OSHP\\_NWOhio](#)
- [@OSHP\\_SEOhio](#)
- [@OSHP\\_SWOhio](#)





# OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

## Chaplain's Comments



Having crossed over the 95 year old mark for life on this spinning planet called earth, I was impressed with the fact that I had actually run the course of life for 49,965,174 minutes. That's a lot of "just-a-minute's." Reflecting on that reality, my thought was led to a portion of Scripture I have quoted before, but is well worth quoting again. From Hebrews 12:1 we read: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Two thoughts regarding the truth of this encouraging verse.

First there is the fact that we are surrounded by a great cloud of support. Since its founding in 1933, the Patrol has had "leaders among leaders" who accepted the challenges of their time with courage, compassion, and dedication. Those who have gone ahead on the road of selfless service have set a high standard for the present day. In the present day we have the encouragement of team members, of family members, of the vast majority of the general public, and the Lord of Life, all of whom are supportive and pray for law and order each day.+

During my "minutes" I have learned that life is not always just a straight race. Sometimes there are some hurdles. I have experienced the affect of the Great Depression, the horror of the Second World War, the paralyzing fear of polio, the unrest and riots of the 60's, two major prison riots in our state, as well as many other challenges. But we have prevailed and we will because not only do we have the great cloud of witnesses but we have the strength which the Lord supplies.

During days of combat when fear could almost immobilize, I can recall the physical presence of our Chaplain. He was not carrying a weapon, but he was bringing a message of strength. He was reminding us of our true source of strength. That same source of strength is available to all so whether one is on the front line protecting life and property or at home fighting the curse of the virus. We are not alone. We have each other and we have the assurance given in Isaiah.

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:28-31)

Do not despair; there is light at the end of the tunnel. Walk not alone; the Lord desires to be your companion and you have a great cloud of supporters. You and your families are in the prayers and blessings of all your Chaplains.

Respectfully,

Richard D. Ellsworth  
State Chaplain

## FLYING WHEEL

The *Flying Wheel* is published by the Ohio State Highway Patrol in the interest of the entire Patrol family.

**Mike DeWine**, Governor, State of Ohio

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